

Marlinton Postmasters

We found this history of Marlinton Postmasters, written in 1955, with no authors listed. We compared it with an earlier account in The Pocahontas Times in which Calvin Price records the postmasters as he had known them since 1885, so we think that is the way this should be. According to post office records, James Atlee Price was the first postmaster of Marlin's Bottom in 1849. This was then about the time the Warm Springs-Huntersville Pike was extended to Marlin's Bottom to meet the Lewisburg-Beverly Turnpike. The covered bridge was built about 1854.

Marlinton's first postmaster was Captain J. R. Apperson, formerly of the Confederate Army. He was appointed in 1885 by the Democrat President, Grover Cleveland. The first post office was located in the Toll House near the end of the bridge across the Greenbrier River which connects Marlinton with Route 219. This building, which is still standing, has been remodeled and was later occupied by the Toll House Restaurant. After serving one year as postmaster Apperson resigned and returned to his home in Richmond, Virginia.

The second postmaster appointment was given to Mrs. Thomas B. Skyles, who was the only woman ever to serve as postmaster.

...in the spelling. Persons unfamiliar with the proper name often put the letter "g" in Marlinton, making it "Marlington." Much of the mail coming to the local postoffice is addressed thus. To aid in correcting this impression, the late Andrew Price, Marlinton historian and attorney, once wrote a poem entitled, "There Ain't no G in Marlinton." This poem has been widely quoted and is familiar to most all Marlinton residents.

Sheriff Sam Gay was Marlinton's third postmaster. He was appointed in 1887 by President Cleveland and served until 1899. Dr. Calvin W. Price, editor of the Pocahontas Times, from whom the names of the Marlinton postmasters and the dates of their terms were secured, says there were three local residents by the name of Sam Gay at that time. The way they were distinguished was Sheriff Sam, Draft Sam, and Devil Sam.

It was during Sheriff Sam Gay's term as postmaster that Marlinton had its first post office building. The office was moved into an old sawmill shanty on Jerico Road, where it remained until 1889 when Gay resigned to become a candidate for another term as county sheriff.

With the change in presidential administrations, Marlinton's fourth postmaster was the Rev. Madison Boggs, a Negro preacher. He was appointed in 1889 by President Benjamin Harrison. As the Rev. Boggs was also keeper of

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Thomas B. Skyles, who was the
only woman ever to serve as
Marlinton postmaster, ap-
pointed by President Cleve-
land. She served in 1886 and
1887. The post office was then
located in a hotel located on
the present site of the Poca-
hontas Memorial Hospital, lat-
er owned and operated by Mr.
and Mrs. Charlie Yeager.

Mrs. Skyles served only one
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Benjamin Harrison. As the
Rev. Boggs was also keeper of
the toll house at the Marlinton
bridge, the post office was
moved to the toll house again.

Before the coming of the
railroad into Pocahontas Coun-
ty the mail was brought in at
least once a week by horse
back and stagecoach. It came
into the county over the Lew-
isburg-Marlinton Turnpike. A
few years later the mail was
brought in three times a week.
It was customary for the car-
rier to bring the mail from
Lewisburg one day and make
the return trip on the follow-
ing day. During the stage-
coach era, the mail coach also
served as a conveyance for pas-
sengers.

After the stagecoach era,
the mail was carried in a two-
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modated. Three Pocahontas
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and Mrs. Charlie Yeager.

Mrs. Skyles served only one year and resigned to go east with her husband, but during that year she changed the course of local history. This is how:

History books show that in the year of 1749 the first settlement west of Allegheny Mountains was made by Jacob Marlin and Stephen B. Sewell who had come into the Pocahontas County section from Frederick County. They built a cabin on what is now the present site of Marlinton.

Although Marlin and Sewell were the best of friends, they could not agree on the subject of religion and found it more agreeable to live apart. One of the men remained in the cabin while the other took up his abode in a large hollow sycamore tree which stood nearby.

Colonel Andrew Lewis found the men thus living apart when he came to what is now Pocahontas County on a surveying trip for the Greenbrier Land Co. in 1751. Sewell eventually moved further west and was killed by Indians on the mountain which now bears his name. In the meantime, Marlin re-

ty the mail was brought in at least once a week by horse back and stagecoach. It came into the county over the Lewisburg-Marlinton Turnpike. A few years later the mail was brought in three times a week. It was customary for the carrier to bring the mail from Lewisburg one day and make the return trip on the following day. During the stagecoach era, the mail coach also served as a conveyance for passengers.

After the stagecoach era, the mail was carried in a two-wheel cart in which one or two passengers were often accommodated. Three Pocahontas County residents who had mail contracts during this period were Valentine Perkins, Thomas Hogsett (grandfather of the late Lanty Hogsett, of Marlinton,) and Joseph Pennell (father of the late Add Pennell, also of Marlinton.)

Charles Z. Hevener, the big blacksmith from Bath County, served as Marlinton's fifth postmaster. He was appointed in 1890 by President Benjamin Harrison. The office was still located in the Toll House. Hevener was the village blacksmith and collected bridge and road tolls.

The sixth postmaster was Henry A. Yeager who was appointed by President Cleveland during his second term in 1893. During Yeager's term as postmaster, the office was located in the Staton Hotel Building. This structure, was purchased by the Marlinton Presbyterian Church and was razed to make room for church parking lot.

W W. Tyree, another village blacksmith, was appointed as the seventh Marlinton Postmaster. He received his appointment from President William McKinley in 1897. During Tyree's term the office was moved from a building at the west end of the bridge where People's Store is located to a building which occupied the site of the present post office.

The eighth postmaster was N. Clawson McNeill, who was appointed by President Theodor Roosevelt in 1901. Again

People's Store is located to a building which occupied the site of the present post office.

The eighth postmaster was N. Clawson McNeill, who was appointed by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1901. Again it was pick up the mail bags and move. This time the office was moved into the First National Bank Building to the room where Buzzard's Barber Shop was once located.

A. S. Overholt was appointed as the ninth postmaster by President Roosevelt in 1905. He was reappointed by President William H. Taft in 1909 and served until 1913. The office remained in the bank building.

The tenth postmaster was Andrew W. Price, who was appointed by President Woodrow Wilson in 1913. In 1917 Price was reappointed by President Wilson and served until 1921. It was during Price's tenure

Andrew W. Price, who was appointed by President Woodrow Wilson in 1913. In 1917 Price was reappointed by President Wilson and served until 1921. It was during Price's tenure in office that free house-to-house mail delivery was inaugurated in Marlinton. The town was one of the smallest communities in the nation having this service. The man who carried the first mail over Marlinton street was Edward Moore, who served many years. The office remained in the bank building.

J. E. Buckley was the town's eleventh postmaster. He was appointed by President Warren G. Harding in 1921 and reappointed by President Calvin Coolidge in 1923. Buckley was the first postmaster to receive a third appointment, his appointment coming from President Herbert Hoover.

By 1929 the town's population had grown so that post office quarters had to be enlarged.

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t ed. A partition in the bank
t building was removed so that
s the office could also occupy
l the room once used by Style
e Rite Beauty Shop. The post
n office remained in these rooms
- while the present modern post
s office building was being con-
structed.

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- pointed as the town's twelfth
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There have been many changes in the American way of life as well as the U. S. Postal Service since Marlinton's crude first post office but the mail service is still in effect "Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stay these couriers from the swift complement of their appointed rounds."

(Since this is the first written history of the Marlinton postoffice, the writer is indebted to the following persons for facts contained in this article: Dr. C. W. Price, Dr. G. D. McNeill, J. E. Buckley, Kerth Nottingham, and Mrs. Richard Currence.)

In 1956 J. E. Buckley was named acting postmaster—for a fourth term of service. On November 12, 1957, N. E. Wagner was named acting postmaster and then July 3, 1958, he was appointed postmaster by President Dwight Eisenhower, and is still serving in that capacity.